

CAVITE CAREER CARAVAN OPENS DOORS TO THOUSANDS OF JOBS FOR CAVITEÑOS



The Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC), through the Office of the Provincial Public Employment Service Manager (OPPESM) led by Ms. Rizalie P. Enero, Provincial PESO Manager, successfully conducted the Cavite Career Caravan on October 2, 2026, at SM City Rosario.

The event brought together 55 participating companies offering a combined 11,573 vacancies, giving jobseekers access to diverse employment opportunities. Participating national government agencies (NGAs) likewise provided complementary services and assistance, making the caravan a meaningful convergence of employment and public service.

Thirty – four (34) applicants were hired on the spot and 99 others nearly hired, bringing them closer to securing employment. More than matching people with jobs, the career caravan demonstrated the PGC’s continuing commitment to bringing employment opportunities closer to Caviteños and strengthening partnerships with employers and government agencies. Through the OPPESM, the

HEALTHCARE GETS CLOSER TO HOME IN MARAGONDON



Residents of Maragondon received a welcome dose of care as the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) conducted a Medical Mission at Maragondon Town Plaza on September 13, 2026,

bringing essential health services closer to the community.

A total of 439 individuals benefited from the mission, with 334 medical consultations, 55

Provincial Government of Cavite remains

committed to creating accessible employment opportunities and empowering Caviteños to take the next step toward productive and sustainable careers. — **OPIO**

ECG tests, and 50 FBS tests provided to residents.

The activity was supported by Mayor Lawrence ‘Umbe’ Arca and carried out in collaboration with doctors of the Cavite Medical Society, whose expertise and commitment helped bring quality healthcare within easier reach of the community.

The mission reaffirmed the PGC’s commitment to making healthcare more accessible, responsive, and closer to the people – because staying healthy should never be a long-distance affair. — **OPIO**



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CITY LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON SA KASONG CARNAPPING, ARESTADO NG BACOR PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Isang City Level Most Wanted Person ang naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Bacoor City Police Station sa isinagawang police operation dakong alas-3:45 ng hapon noong Oktubre 7, 2026, sa Barangay Molino 2, Bacoor City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL ALEXIE A DESAMITO, Chief of Police ng Bacoor City Police Station, ang naarestong akusado na si alyas "Carl" na residente ng Bacoor City, Cavite.

Isinagawa ang operasyon ng mga tauhan ng Warrant Section ng Bacoor City Police Station, katuwang ang RMFB 4A 401st A MC, matagumpay na ipinatupad ang Warrant of Arrest laban sa akusado.

Ang pag-aresto ay isinagawa sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa paglabag sa Section 3 ng Republic Act No.

10883 o Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016. Ang warrant ay inisyu ng Presiding Judge ng Regional Trial Court Branch 115, Bacoor City, Cavite, noong Mayo 21, 2026, na may inirekomendang piyansa na ₱300,000.00.

Ang naarestong akusado ay kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng BJMP Bacoor City, Cavite, habang isinasagawa ang kaukulang proseso para sa pagbabalik ng Warrant of Arrest sa Court of Origin para sa wastong disposisyon.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO, patuloy na paiigtingin ng Cavite PNP ang mga operasyon laban sa mga wanted person upang matiyak ang pagpapatupad ng mga warrant of arrest at mapanatili ang seguridad at kapayapaan sa mga komunidad.

LALAKI, ARESTADO SA PAGLABAG SA COMPREHENSIVE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION REGULATION ACT; BARIL AT BALANG NAKUMPISKA NG DASMARINAS PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Isang lalaki ang naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Dasmariñas City Component Police Station matapos ipatupad ang Search Warrant kaugnay ng paglabag sa Republic Act No. 10591 o Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act, dakong alas-9:50 ng gabi noong Oktubre 6, 2026, sa Barangay San Simon, Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL MAC ARTHUR S MERCADER, hepe ng Dasmariñas CCPS, ang naaresto na si alyas "Jeffrey" na residente ng Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Isinagawa ang operasyon ng mga tauhan ng Dasmariñas CCPS. Ang Search Warrant ng RTC Branch 129, Fourth Judicial Region, laban sa suspek dahil sa umano'y pag-iingat at pagmamay-ari ng mga hindi rehistradong baril.

Sa isinagawang paghahanap sa kanyang tirahan, narekober ang isang .45 caliber pistol, isang .45 caliber magazine, pitong piraso ng .45 caliber live ammunition, at isang navy blue belt bag.

Ang operasyon ay nasaksihan ng kanyang mga kamag anak, mga kinatawan ng barangay, at isinagawa sa tulong personnel ng Women and Children Protection Desk.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO, patuloy na paiigtingin ng Cavite PNP ang pagpapatupad ng mga batas laban sa iligal na pagmamay-ari at pag-iingat ng mga baril upang mapanatili ang seguridad at kapayapaan sa mga komunidad.

Ang naarestong suspek at mga nakumpiskang ebidensya ay inihahanda para sa inquest proceedings sa Office of the City Prosecutor.

CITY LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON SA PAGLABAG SA BP 22, ARESTADO NG CARMONA PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Isang City Level Most Wanted Person ang naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Carmona City Police Station sa isinagawang police operation dakong alas-11:35 ng umaga noong Oktubre 7, 2026, sa Barangay Maduya, Carmona City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL RENE JOY L MOSQUIZA, Officer-In-Charge ng Carmona CCPS, ang naarestong akusado na si alyas "Malou" na residente ng Dasmariñas City, Cavite.

Isinagawa ng mga warrant operatives ng Carmona City Police Station ang operasyon laban sa naturang wanted person, na nagresulta sa kanyang pagkakaaresto.

Ang pag-aresto ay unang isinagawa sa bisa ng Bench Warrant of Arrest para sa 13 counts ng paglabag sa Batas Pambansa Blg. 22 o Bouncing Check Law. Ang warrant ay inisyu ng Presiding Judge ng MTCC Branch 4, Dasmariñas City, Cavite, noong Hulyo 24, 2026, na may inirekomendang piyansa na ₱78,000.00.

Bukod dito, isa pang Warrant of Arrest ang

inihain dito para sa anim na counts ng paglabag sa Batas Pambansa Blg. 22, na inisyu ng Presiding Judge ng MeTC Branch 80, Muntinlupa City, na may kabuuang inirekomendang piyansa na ₱36,000.00.

Ipinalam sa akusado ang dahilan at kalikasan ng kanyang pagkakaaresto at ipinalam ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal alinsunod sa Republic Act No. 7438 at Republic Act No. 9745 o Anti-Torture Act of 2009, sa wikang kanyang nauunawaan.

Ang naarestong akusado ay kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng Carmona City Police Station para sa kaukulang disposisyon, habang ang mga Warrant of Arrest ay ibabalik sa kani-kanilang issuing courts.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO, patuloy na paiigtingin ng Cavite PNP ang mga operasyon laban sa mga wanted person upang matiyak ang pagpapatupad ng mga warrant of arrest at mapanatili ang seguridad at kapayapaan sa mga komunidad.

REGIONAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON SA KASO NG PAGLABAG SA BATAS LABAN SA ILIGAL NA DROGA, ARESTADO NG KAWIT PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Isang Regional Level Most Wanted Person ang naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Kawit Municipal Police Station sa isinagawang operasyon dakong alas-9:15 ng umaga noong Oktubre 7, 2026, sa Barangay Bayang Luma 7, Imus City, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL KRISTINE V PARAS, hepe ng Kawit MPS, ang naarestong akusado na si alyas "Allan" na residente ng Barangay Habay 1, Bacoor City, Cavite.

Isinagawa ang operasyon ng Warrant Tracker Team ng Kawit MPS, na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest na inisyu ng Regional Trial Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 21, Imus

City, Cavite.

Ang warrant ay may kaugnayan sa paglabag sa Republic Act No. 9165 o Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, na nakadokumento at inisyu noong Oktubre 5, 2026 para sa Service of Sentence.

Ang pag-aresto ay bahagi ng patuloy na pagpapatupad ng Cavite PNP sa mga warrant of arrest laban sa mga wanted person. Ang akusado ay kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng Kawit MPS at isasagawa ang pagbabalik ng warrant sa Court of Origin.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO, patuloy na paiigtingin ng Cavite PNP ang operasyon laban sa mga wanted person upang matiyak na naipatatupad

RANK 10 PROVINCIAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON SA PAGLABAG NG NEW ANTI-CARNAPPING ACT OF 2016, ARESTADO NG IMUS PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Naaresto ng mga tauhan ng Imus Component City Police Station ang Rank 10 Provincial Level Most Wanted Person sa isinagawang police operation dakong alas-5:30 ng hapon noong Oktubre 6, 2026, sa Barangay Poblacion, Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL CHEY CHEY I SAULOG, hepe ng Imus CCPS, ang naarestong akusado na si alyas "Chris" na residente ng Norzagaray, Bulacan.

Isinagawa ang operasyon ng Warrant Section ng Imus CCPS, katuwang ang mga tauhan ng Norzagaray Municipal Police Station. Naaresto ang akusado sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa paglabag sa Republic Act No. 10883 o New Anti-Carnapping Act of 2016, na inisyu ng Regional Trial Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 123, Imus

City, Cavite, noong Marso 2, 2026. Ang piyansa ay itinakda sa halagang ₱300,000.00.

Ipinalam sa akusado ang kanyang mga karapatang konstitusyonal sa wikang kanyang nauunawaan, subalit pinili nitong manahimik habang wala ang kanyang napiling abogado.

Ang akusado ay dadalhin sa Imus Detention Facility para sa pansamantalang pagkakakulong, habang isinasagawa ang kaukulang proseso para sa pagbabalik ng Warrant of Arrest sa korte na nag-isyu nito.

Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO, patuloy na paiigtingin ng Cavite PNP ang paghahanap at pag-aresto sa mga wanted person upang matiyak na mananagot sa batas ang mga may kinakaharap na kaso at mapanatili ang kaligtasan ng mga komunidad.

PROVINCIAL LEVEL MOST WANTED PERSON SA KASONG ACTS OF LASCIVIOUSNESS, ARESTADO NG GMA PULIS

Camp BGen Pantaleon Garcia, Imus City, Cavite — Isang Provincial Level Most Wanted Person ang naaresto ng mga tauhan ng General Mariano Alvarez Municipal Police Station, sa isinagawang police operation dakong alas-7:20 ng umaga noong Oktubre 7, 2026, sa Barangay Poblacion 1, General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite.

Kinilala ni PLTCOL ROEL G GABITO, hepe ng GMA MPS, ang naarestong akusado na si alyas "Hapon," na residente ng Labo, Camarines Norte. Isinagawa ang operasyon ng mga tauhan ng Warrant Section ng GMA MPS, katuwang ang RMFB 401st AMC, na nagresulta sa pagkakaaresto sa

akusado.

Ang pag-aresto ay isinagawa sa bisa ng Warrant of Arrest para sa kasong Acts of Lasciviousness in Relation to Section 5(b) of Republic Act No. 7610. Ang warrant ay inisyu ng Regional Trial Court, Fourth Judicial Region, Branch 64, Labo, Camarines Norte, na may inirekomendang piyansa na ₱200,000.00.

Ang naarestong akusado ay kasalukuyang nasa kustodiya ng GMA MPS, habang isinasagawa ang kaukulang proseso para sa pagbabalik ng Warrant of Arrest sa Court of Origin. Ayon kay PCOL ARIEL R RED, Provincial Director, Cavite PPO, patuloy na paiigtingin ng Cavite PNP ang mga operasyon laban sa mga wanted person upang matiyak ang pagpapatupad ng mga warrant of arrest at mapanatili ang seguridad at kapayapaan sa mga komunidad.

ang mga warrant of arrest at naiharap sa kaukulang proseso ng batas ang mga akusado.

PGC HONORS 325 EMPLOYEES IN 2026 LOYALTY SERVICE AWARDS

A total of 325 employees of the Provincial Government of Cavite (PGC) were recognized for their years of dedicated and loyal service during the 2026 Loyalty Service Awards held on September 30, at the New Provincial Government Center in Trece Martires City.

The recognition formed part of the province's Employees Month Celebration, honoring government workers who have devoted significant milestones of their careers to public service and to the people of Cavite.

Of the 325 awardees, 79 employees were recognized for 10 years of service, 112 for 15 years, 52 for 20 years, 36 for 25 years, 29 for 30 years, 12 for 35 years, four for 40 years, and one employee for an impressive 45 years of service.

The ceremony highlighted the invaluable contributions of employees whose years of commitment, dedication, and professionalism have helped advance the programs and services of the provincial government. Dir. Shiela G. Acuña, Assistant Regional Director – CSC Regional Office IV served as the

resource speaker on behalf of Atty. Marites Lappay, Director IV- CSC Regional Office IV, sharing a message of appreciation and encouragement to the awardees and emphasizing the significance of sustained commitment to government service.

Also present during the occasion were Gov. Francisco Gabriel "Abeng" Remulla and BM Maurito Sison, Chair – Committee on Personnel Affairs who joined the provincial government in honoring the employees and celebrating their respective service milestones.

The 2026 Loyalty Service Awards served as a tribute to the men and women of the PGC who have remained steadfast in their commitment to public service, with their years of service reflecting a continuing dedication to fulfilling the government's mandate of serving the Caviteño people.

The celebration likewise underscored that every year spent in government service represents not only a milestone in an employee's career, but also a meaningful contribution to the province and its communities. — **OPIO**

EXPECT LESS RAINFALL UNTIL EARLY 2027, PAGASA WARNS AMID SUPER EL NINO

CALAMBA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — Rainfall in the CALABARZON region may be significantly reduced by up to 60 percent until early 2027 due to the drier conditions brought by the super El Niño, according to PAGASA.

Bernadeth Lucillo, PAGASA Weather Specialist, in an interview said the region may experience less rainfall by up to 20 to 60 percent in October. By November, rainfall may be further reduced in the provinces of Batangas, Cavite and Rizal, as well as the upper part of Laguna province.

"Pagdating ng October, halos buong CALABARZON ay inaasahan na mayroon tayong reduction ng 20 to 60 percent of rainfall. Pagdating naman ng November may reduction na sa western Batangas, whole of Cavite, whole of Rizal, [at] upper part of

Laguna may reduction na ng 60 percent sa rainfall na natatangap nila. Then the rest may reduction na ng 20 to 60 percent."

Lucillo added that the reduced amount to rainfall may continue until January 2027, and is expected to further dwindle during the drier months of February and March.

"Pagdating lalong February and March, parang whole of CALABARZON na ay mayroong kakulangan sa pag-ulan na greater than 60 percent, although maliliit naman talaga 'yung inaasahan nating pag-ulan during these months."

Traditionally, El Niño and La Niña phenomena take place every five to seven years. However, these extreme weather conditions have occurred more frequently during the recent years and have since followed a two-year cycle.

Despite these

ASEAN YOUTH BACKS DAP'S RISING LEADERS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

TAGAYTAY CITY, Cavite (PIA) — The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) called for stronger collaboration to prepare the youth in addressing shared regional issues.

Lee Troy Calimlim, Country Director for the ASEAN Youth Organization Philippines, made the call during the launch of the AGOS cohort for its BAGANI Rising Leaders Development Program which welcomed around 100 youth leaders from various sectors.

Calimlim pledged the ASEAN's support to the Rising Leaders Development Program which was designed to hone a generation of leaders who have long overcome the moral challenges of governance and leadership, "Our institutions may work in different spaces, but our aspirations converge: to develop leaders who both are capable and committed to public service."

Calimlim added that the

Philippines is not spared from the problems its neighbors also face, such as climate change, digital transformation, and economic disruptions to name a few.

"We are eleven countries in ASEAN. Climate change, digital transformation, and even economic disruption do not stop here in the Philippines, and neither should our collaboration."

With these challenges becoming a reality across borders, Calimlim urged that ASEAN members must work together to hone a new generation of capable and committed next generation of leaders.

A leadership development initiative of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), the BAGANI Rising Leaders Development Program aims to equip young Filipinos with the knowledge, competencies, and values needed in their work in public service and nation-building. (PB-PIA CALABARZON) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**

CAVITE IS FASTEST-GROWING PROVINCE IN CALABARZON FOR 2025 – PSA

BACOR CITY, Cavite (PIA) — Cavite Province reported the fastest economic growth in the CALABARZON for the year 2025, posting a 6.7 percent increase in its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

In its report on the 2025 Provincial Product Accounts, the PSA noted

observations, PAGASA clarified that these shortened cycles need to be further studied and take into account climate change and global warming.

"Syempre kailangan natin ng study kung bakit nangyayari ito. Pero isa kasi sa mga ina-attribute ay dito ay climate change and global warming. Pero kailangan pa ng deeper study patungkol dito, mayroon nang studies na nagsasabi na pwedeng i-attribute ang mga ito sa climate change at global warming." (PB-PIA CALABARZON) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**

that the GDP of Cavite Province was valued at Php 875.67 billion in 2025 from Php 820.76 billion in 2024.

Meanwhile, the province's estimated per capita GDP was valued at Php 181,561 which is a 4.6 percent increase in 2024.

A key indicator of local economic growth, per capita GDP indicates the average economic value or output by each person in a given area.

According to the PSA, Cavite posted the largest contribution for the entire region's growth rate for the services sector with a 2.0 percent share.

Among the industries, the Human health and social work activities sector saw the fastest growth with 15.5 percent, followed by public administration and defense and compulsory social security at 10.5 percent.

On the other hand, the mining and quarrying industry accounted for the lowest economic performance at 4.1 percent. (PB-PIA CALABARZON with reports from PSA) **BY PATRICIA BERMUDEZ**

EDITORIAL

Babala sa Matinding Init

Ang babala ng Climate Change Commission tungkol sa posibleng pagtaas ng temperatura sa higit 45 degrees Celsius sa 2027 ay isang seryosong usapin na dapat paghandaan ng bansa.

Hindi lamang init ang maaaring idulot ng Super El Niño, kundi pati kakulangan sa tubig, pagkain, at enerhiya na makaaapekto sa pang-araw-araw na pamumuhay ng mga Pilipino.

Mahalagang magpatupad ang pamahalaan ng mga hakbang upang matiyak ang sapat na suplay ng pangunahing pangangailangan at proteksyon laban sa init para sa publiko. Dapat ding palakasin ang pagpapalaganap ng tamang impormasyon upang malaman ng mamamayan ang mga posibleng epekto nito at ang mga paraan upang makapaghanda.

Higit sa lahat, kailangan ang pagtutulungan ng pamahalaan at mamamayan sa pagtitipid ng tubig at kuryente at sa pangangalaga sa kapaligiran. Mas magiging handa ang bansa sa mga hamong maaaring idulot ng matinding init.

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Contact #: 09387342688
Email: cavitegazette@gmail.com



ANABELLE K. DUMALI
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief

JOHN RENNIEL K. DUMALI
Managing Editor

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ENCHANTED KINGDOM MARKS ITS 31ST ANNIVERSARY WITH ENHANCED AGILA THE EKSPERIENCE: SARIBUHAY AND A NIGHT OF OPM MUSIC



Enchanted Kingdom (EK), the first and only world-class theme park in the Philippines, renews its commitment to sustainability and biodiversity as it celebrates its 31st Anniversary with the second set of enhancements of its award-winning flying theater, AGILA The EKSPERIENCE: SARIBUHAY this October.

As a highlight of its Fiesta ng Saribuhay anniversary campaign, EK will continue to share more enchanting stories of Saribuhay through the attraction's new and enhanced pre- and post-show experiences that showcase the rich biodiversity of the Philippines and reinforce its call for Filipinos to appreciate and take care of our environment.

Among the enhancements is Kwento ng Agila, an immersive walkthrough accessible upon entering the AGILA building. Through immersive visuals and storytelling, the new entry experience takes guests behind the scenes of the attraction, revealing its inspiration, the symbolism behind its architecture, and its development by an all-Filipino team.

Further along the walkthrough, guests will be introduced to the world of the Agila, or Philippine eagle, through a glimpse of its natural habitat and the various species that thrive within its ecosystem. It also traces the lifecycle of the Agila, highlighting its plight as one of the critically endangered birds in the world.

This builds on EK's steadfast commitment to eagle conservation, earlier demonstrated by its adoption and continued support for the care and breeding of Enchanting Kagitingan, a male Philippine eagle, in partnership with the Philippine Eagle Foundation.

Additionally, the immersive experience extends beyond the atrium lobby, as augmented reality (AR) brings the landing queue leading to the Enchanted Forest to life through the guests' smartphones.

EK has also given PUGAD, the attraction's in-house concept store, a new direction as part of

the AGILA improvements. The refreshed retail space will now incorporate an enchanting mix of entertainment and learning to encapsulate the overall AGILA experience.

The attraction's existing facilities remain operational and accessible to all guests, while its newly updated areas will officially launch on October 17.

Almost a decade after its launch, AGILA The EKSPERIENCE: SARIBUHAY was reimagined in October 2025, placing renewed focus not only on tourism but also on sustainability and appreciation for the country's natural heritage. It was later recognized as the Best ASEAN New Tourism Attraction by the ASEAN Tourism Association (ASEANTA) in January 2026.

EK celebrates its 31st Anniversary with Fiesta ng Saribuhay

EK is all set to celebrate its 31st Anniversary as it releases more updates on its events, shows, and other offerings throughout October.

Following the announcement of its anniversary events in late August, the theme park has unveiled the complete lineup of performers at its Fiesta ng Saribuhay Concert on October 17 at the Spaceport Grounds. The spectacular night will showcase world-class Filipino music and talent through live performances by award-winning R&B hitmaker Dionela, 1Z Entertainment's rising P-pop girl group XONARA, indie band Sacred Red, and other up-and-coming artists, alongside EK's homegrown talents, SMS and Kingsmen.

The celebration will culminate in the Lipad ng Agila: A Pyromusical Fiesta, giving EK's signature evening send-off a magical twist as vibrant pyrotechnic displays and symbolic imagery bring the spirit of the festivities to the night sky.

Every weekend in October, the EK Storyverse Characters will bring all the magic and excitement across the Park's themed zones during the Fiesta ng Saribuhay Anniversary Parade. And on October 17, streetdance performers

will join in the parade as it serves as a festive prelude to the concert proper.

Meanwhile, Run to 31: Takbo ng Saribuhay, a fun run celebrating biodiversity through fitness and togetherness, will take place on October 11 in partnership with the United RSBS Boulevard Stakeholders Federation (URSF). Registration is now ongoing at the EK Online Store, with 1.5K, 3K, and 5K routes available for interested participants.

SMS and Kingsmen will also mark the Park's 31st Anniversary with new music. The P-pop girl group will release their rendition of Lipad, while the all-male vocal group has re-recorded a festive version of their song, Saribuhay. Both tracks will soon be available on all major streaming platforms.

Meanwhile, parkgoers can immerse themselves in other seasonal experiences at the Agila Grounds, including the Ube-Matcha Festival from October 14 to

SSS ENCOURAGES MEMBERS TO AVAIL OF NEW MICROLOAN FACILITY



QUEZON CITY, – The Social Security System (SSS) is urging members

with at least 12 posted monthly contributions to apply for its new digital microloan facility, the SSS Micro Loan Program, also known as SSS LoanLite.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph M. de Claro said SSS LoanLite is designed to provide qualified members with accessible, secure, and affordable short-term financial assistance for immediate needs.

De Claro said qualified members may apply for loans ranging from ₱1,000 to ₱20,000, depending on the average of their 12 latest Monthly Salary Credits (MSCs). "Available repayment periods are 15, 30, 60, or 90 days, with an interest rate of 8% per annum, equivalent to approximately 0.67% per month."

Eligibility To qualify for SSS LoanLite, eligible employed, self-employed, voluntary, and OFW members must: Be at least 18 years old at the time of application and below 65 years old at the end of the loan term Have at least 12 posted monthly contributions Have no past-due Short-Term Member Loan (e.g., Salary, Calamity, or Emergency Loan) Have no pending or settled final benefit claim (e.g., retirement or permanent total disability), unless previously cancelled due to re-employment, resumption of self-employment, or recovery Have no active Restructured Loan (or, if fully paid, the required restrictive period must have lapsed) Have an account enrolled in the online facility of a participating financial institution (PFI) Have no active SSS Micro Loan and have fully paid any prior microloan refinanced by a PFI Have no record of fraud against SSS Loanable amount

De Claro noted that while 12 contributions are enough to be eligible for the SSS LoanLite, members

with at least 36 total contributions—including at least six posted within the 12 months immediately before applying—qualify for higher loan amounts up to the ₱20,000 ceiling.

De Claro said that members with at least 12 monthly contributions can borrow a loanable amount equal to 11% of their average MSCs in the last 12 months. "For example, if a member's average MSC over the last 12 months is ₱20,000 but the member has only 12 total contributions, the loanable amount is ₱2,200 (11% of ₱20,000)," he said.

Members with at least 36 total contributions, including at least six posted monthly contributions within the 12-month period immediately preceding the application, may qualify for the maximum loan amount of up to ₱20,000, depending on their average MSC.

Furthermore, members with existing Short-Term Member Loans (Salary, Calamity, or Emergency Loans) may still apply for SSS LoanLite, provided those loans are not past due and they have no active SSS Micro Loan.

Repayment and renewal Repayments will be collected according to the agreed schedule through an automatic debit arrangement, which is the default collection mode. Deductions will primarily be made from the account where the loan proceeds were credited. Loan renewal is allowed after full payment of the current microloan, as reported by the participating financial institutions.

Where to apply At present, SSS LoanLite is available through the UnionDigital Bank mobile application. De Claro said SSS is also working with Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC), Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), and Union Bank of the Philippines (UBP) to make LoanLite available through their respective digital platforms. #



ANG PAG-ANGAT NA DI MINADALI

Ang oras ay isa ring mahalagang sangkap sa paggagawa ng tinapay, kung saan bawat sobrang segundo ay maaaring makasira sa nilulutong tinapay. Si Lennie Piñana, isang negosyanteng panadera mula sa Brgy. Laguan, Rizal, Laguna, ay nagpatunay ng ganitong kasanayan sa paglipas ng panahon sa bawat tinapay na kanilang niluluto.

Nagsimula siya bilang isang domestic worker sa Hong Kong noong 2006, kung saan karamihan sa kanyang oras ay nakalaan sa paglilingkod sa pamilyang kanyang pinagsiislabihan. Bahagi ng kaniyang trabaho ang paghahanda ng pagkain para sa kaniyang mga amo, at dito niya unang natutuhan ang pagbe-bake.

Bagama't sigurado at maaasahang pangkabuhayan ang trabahong ito, pangarap pa rin ng kaniyang asawa na sila'y makabalik sa kanilang bayan upang magtayo ng sariling negosyo.

Taong 2019, bago sumapit ang pandemya, napagdesisyonang nilang umuwi at manatili na lamang sa bansa. Dito rin nila napagdesisyonang simulan ang pagtatayo ng sarili nilang bakery at gamitin sa negosyo ang kanyang kasanayan sa pagbe-bake.

Gayunpaman, sa kabila ng kanyang kaalaman dito, nakita niya ring mas kailangan ng mga mamimili ang mga biskwit o matitigas na tinapay tulad ng paborita, ugoy, hakobina, at puto seko, na malayo sa mga cake at cookies na kanyang bine-bake sa ibang bansa. Upang maging posible ang pinasisimulang negosyo, kumuha siya ng limang panaderong may kasanayan na sa pagbe-bake ng mga biskwit upang maging katuwang niya sa produksyon ng mga tinapay.

Bukod dito, naging tulong din sa pagsisimula ng negosyo ni Lennie ang pinansiyal na serbisyo mula sa CARD Bank, Inc., isang microfinance-oriented rural bank. Bilang kliyente at dahil dahil sa kaniyang pag-iipon rito mula noong taong 2013, naging pamilyar na si Lennie sa mga produktong inaalok ng nasabing bangko. Kaya naman, nag-apply at naaprubahan siya sa

loan na nagkakahalagang PHP 20,000, na kaniyang ginamit bilang puhunan sa kaniyang bagong negosyo. Sa kabila nito, batid ni Lennie na isang malaking sugal ang pagpapakabo ng negosyo. Kaya naman, nagkasundo silang mag-asawa na magpatuloy muna sa pagtatrabaho sa ibang bansa ang kaniyang mister upang mayroon pa rin silang back-up kung sakaling hindi maging matagumpay ang kanilang negosyo.

Sa paglipas ng ilang taon, lumago at tumagal ang kanilang negosyo sa kabila ng mababang demand noong panahon ng pandemya. Ngunit hindi ito naging posible nang walang pinagdaananang mga pagsubok. Aminado si Lennie na ang kaniyang mga unang taon sa negosyo ay humarap sa mga pagkalugi at problema sa suplay. Subalit tiningnan na lamang niya ang kaniyang pagpapatuloy bilang puhunan upang matiyak ang kaniyang puwesto sa merkado sa darating pa na panahon.

Upang mapanatiling nakatayo ang negosyo sa kabila ng mga suliranin, nag-iipon si Lennie sa panahong malakas at dagsa ang kanilang benta, at kumukuha naman ng loan bilang suporta sa panahong mahina ito.

Sa walong taong pagpapakabo nito, nadagdagan na ang mga kliyente at nakakaabot na ang kanilang mga biskwit sa iba't ibang bahagi ng Laguna, probinsya ng Rizal, Quezon, at ilang bahagi ng Metro Manila. Nabalanse ni Lennie ang pag-usbong at paghina ng kaniyang negosyo sa bawat panahon, inayos at napagbuti ang kaniyang produksyon, at napagtapos sa kolehiyo ang kanilang anak sa tulong din ng

CARD Bank
A Microfinance-Oriented Rural Bank

Bukas, para sa lahat

ilang loans niya mula sa nasabing bangko.

Kasalukuyan pa ring nagtatrabaho sa kaniyang bakery ang limang panaderong kasama niya mula umpisa, bukod pa sa mga part-time na tauhan na kanila ring kapitbahay. Kadalasan sa mga ito ay mga nanay na nabibigyan ng pagkakataong kumita nang hindi lumalayo sa kanilang lugar. Para kay Lennie, isa rin itong paraan ng pagbibigay-opportunidad sa kanilang komunidad.

Sa kabila ng kaniyang mga narating, nananatiling mapagpakumbaba at maingat sa paghawak ng pera si Lennie, isang katangian na minsan ay nalilimutan ng ibang negosyante.

Para sa kaniyang simpleng payo sa mga nais ding magnegosyo: "Hindi siya one click lang; mahabang panahon ang kakailanganin; kailangan siyang pagtiyagaan."

Ang oras ay mahalagang sangkap sa paggawa ng tinapay. Ilang segundo lamang na sobra ang kailangan upang masira ang isang magandang tinapay, ngunit ilang taong pagbubuno ang kailangan upang makapagtayo ng isang matatag na panaderya. Ang karanasan ni Lennie ay isang paalala na ang tagumpay ay nangangailangan ng mahabang panahon, katulad ng kung paano niya itinayo at pinagtibay ang kaniyang bakery sa ilang taong mahabang pasensya, kasanayan, at tuloy-tuloy na pagtiyaga.

Sa pamamagitan ng pagiging bukas sa pagbabago sa mga panahon ng kagipitan, matagumpay na nabuo ni Lennie ang isang negosyong patuloy na nagtataguyod sa kaniyang pamilya at sa kanilang komunidad.



Si Lennie Piñana sa kanilang panaderya sa Rizal, Laguna, na kanilang itinayo sa loob ng ilang taong pagsisikap at pagbalanse sa bawat kondisyon ng kanilang benta.

SSS HONORS FILIPINOS ABROAD THROUGH GLOBAL KABAYAN DAY

The Social Security System (SSS) brought its 69th Anniversary celebration closer to Filipinos in Hong Kong through the 2026 SSS Global Kabayan Day held from September 12 to 14 at the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW)-Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) OFW Global Center.

Anchored on the anniversary theme, "Bawat Isa Protektado, Bawat Bukas Sigurado," the three-day activity gave OFWs, pensioners, Filipino community leaders, and other members of the Filipino community an opportunity to learn about SSS programs and services, raise concerns, and access assistance.

The activity was held with the support of the Philippine Consulate General in Hong Kong, led by Consul General Romulo Victor Israel Jr., Consul Von Ryan Ferrera, and Labor Attaché Atty. Cesar L. Chavez, Jr., together with other Philippine government offices, Filipino community organizations, and SSS partner institutions.

The activity opened on September 12 with a town hall meeting where Filipino community leaders and media guests received updates on SSS programs and services, and raised questions and concerns directly with SSS officials.

On behalf of the SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Robert Joseph M. de Claro, Vice President for Asia,

Americas and Pacific Operations Division Atty. Paul Erik D. Manalo presented an overview of SSS services, while Vice President for Member Relations and Support Division Atty. Marissa C. Mapalo discussed the latest SSS programs.

"Our OFWs continue to contribute to their families, communities, and the country, even while working far from home. As their social security institution, SSS must also be there for them wherever they are," Manalo said.

"We want our members abroad to know that their SSS remains accessible to them. Through activities like the Global Kabayan Day, we are able to bring our services closer, provide timely information, and listen directly to their concerns," he added.

The presentations were followed by an open forum with Filipino community leaders and media guests. The activity also provided onsite assistance to OFWs applying for the MySSS Card. SSS Foreign Representatives assisted members through the application process, with support from SSS officials.

The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) assisted members with National ID registration and verification, a key step in securing a MySSS Card. SSS participating financial institutions, such as Asia United Bank (AUB) and Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC),

also provided onsite assistance for MySSS Card applications.

The main Global Kabayan Day program on September 13 highlighted the experiences and contributions of OFWs and SSS pensioners through testimonials and recognition activities. Around 30 SSS pensioners residing in Hong Kong were recognized in appreciation of their years of membership and contributions to the SSS. Some pensioners also shared their personal experiences and reflections.

The program also marked the signing of memoranda of understanding between SSS and Global Alliance Hong Kong and between SSS and Diwa't Kabayan Society, strengthening ties with Filipino community organizations in Hong Kong.

On September 14, the onsite services continued, allowing OFWs and other members of the Filipino community to access assistance on MySSS Card applications and other SSS-related concerns.

The 2026 Global Kabayan Day formed part of the SSS' 69th Anniversary celebration and marked the first time that its annual OFW Day and Pensioners' Day activities were brought together in an overseas setting. Hong Kong and Barcelona served as the inaugural international venues for the initiative. #

FOREIGN RESERVES REMAIN SUFFICIENT AT \$100B AS OF END-SEPTEMBER

MANILA – The country's gross international reserves (GIR) remain adequate despite a recent dip, according to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

Preliminary data released Wednesday showed that the GIR contracted to USD100 billion at the end of September, down from the USD104.8 billion recorded in August.

The BSP attributed this reduction to its net foreign exchange operations and downward valuation adjustments, primarily driven by changes in the prices of the BSP's gold

holdings and foreign currency-denominated reserve assets.

The national government's (NG) drawdowns on its foreign currency deposits with the BSP for external debt service and its net foreign currency withdrawals from its deposits with the BSP also contributed to the decrease in GIR during the month.

Despite the decline, the BSP said the GIR "provides sufficient foreign currency to meet the country's import needs, service its external debt obligations, and serve as a buffer against external economic shocks."

It is equivalent to 6.3 months' worth of imports of goods and payments for services and primary income.

The latest GIR level can also cover about 3.2 times the country's short-term external debt based on residual maturity.

GIR consists of eligible foreign assets, including securities, currency and deposits, reserve position in the fund, gold, special drawing rights and other reserve assets, held by the central bank. **(PNA) BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

MWSS: 6 MORE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS TO OPEN AMID EL NINO THREAT

MANILA – Six more water treatment plants are expected to become operational within the year, adding about 452 million liters of clean water per day to the supply of Metro Manila and nearby provinces amid the threat of El Niño.

In a Bagong Pilipinas interview on Tuesday, Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) spokesperson Patrick Dizon said the facilities are part of efforts to develop water sources outside Angat Dam, which currently provides about 90 percent of Metro Manila's water supply.

Dizon said currently, there are five water treatment plants from Laguna Lake that supply clean water to Metro Manila households. He said of the additional water treatment plants, three are located in Cavite and one each in Pasay, Antipolo, and the east bay of Laguna Lake.

"So, sa kabuuan po ay mayroon po tayong inaasahan na around 452 million liters per day na dagdag na tubig na puwede po nating i-supply sa atin pong mga kababayan since magkakaroon po ng El Niño this year (Overall, we are expecting around 452 million liters per day of additional water that we can supply to residents as there will be an El Niño this year)," he said.

He said the MWSS and its concessionaires have been preparing for the expected El Niño for the past two years, including developing additional water sources as part of the government's water security measures.

Dizon said Angat Dam reached its lowest elevation this year since its construction in 1967.

Despite this, he said, the MWSS avoided supply interruptions even when the reservoir level fell to 150 meters because of contingency and mitigating measures.

Under normal conditions, interruptions may occur once Angat reaches its critical level of 160 meters, he said.

Aside from the six new treatment plants, the

MWSS is also preparing rehabilitated deep wells that could provide about 85 million liters per day. Dizon said deep wells have not been used since 2014 because of land subsidence.

The National Water Resources Board (NWRB) implemented a moratorium and ban on the construction of new deep wells and deep-water drilling through Resolution 001-0904.

This prohibited new deep-well construction and further groundwater extraction in identified critical zones in Metro Manila and specific areas in Bulacan and Cavite.

"Pero noong 2019 po 'no, ay nag-request na po tayo sa NWRB na bigyan po tayo ng temporary permits po para ma-operate po ito. So, ang ginawa po namin, kasama po ng ating konsesyonaryo ay ni-rehabilitate po natin iyong mga deep wells po na ito. So, sa ngayon po ay naka-prepare na po around 85 million liters per day po iyong atin pong naka-prepare na puwede pong mag-operate po ng mga deep wells (But in 2019, we requested the NWRB to grant us temporary permits to operate these. So, what we did, together with our concessionaire, was rehabilitate these deep wells. So, as of now, we have prepared about 85 million liters per day that can operate the deep wells)," Dizon said.

He also said they built additional water treatment plants equipped with new water technologies to treat wastewater.

"Instead of itapon natin sa mga ilog po ay ginagawa po natin ay nagtayo po ng mga additional na water treatment plants para i-treat pa po ito, para pumasa sa Philippine National Standard for Drinking Water. So, mayroon na po tayong existing po na isa at mayroon pa rin pong parating na dalawang new treatment plant na puwede pong mag-operate during the El Niño (Instead of throwing it into the rivers, what we are doing is building additional water treatment plants to treat it further, so it meets

the Philippine National Standard for Drinking Water. So, we already have one existing treatment plant, and there are two new treatment plants coming that can operate during the El Niño)," Dizon said.

The MWSS is also rehabilitating old aqueducts, tunnels, and pipelines to reduce water losses, including facilities built in the 1930s and 1940s.

For possible supply interruptions, the agency has prepared 135 stationary pumps and 105 mobile water tankers, with additional assistance expected from local government units.

Meanwhile, Dizon urged the public to conserve water, saying the effects of El Niño could be felt until 2027.

"Kaya patuloy po kaming nananawagan po, gaya po ng panawagan po ng atin pong Department of Energy sa pagtitipid po ng kuryente at sa gasolina ay gayundin po iyong atin pong panawagan sa patuloy po, na pag-practice po nitong tinatawag po nating wise use of water (So we continue to call for, just like the call from our Department of Energy to conserve electricity and gasoline, as well as our call for the continued practice of what we call the wise use of water)," he said. (PNA) / PNA file photo by Joan Bondoc **BY MARITA MOAJE**

PHCANCARE, MAGSASAGAWA NG MEDICAL TOURISM ASSESSMENT EVENT SA MANILA

Sa Oktubre 24-25, idaraos ng Phcancare ang isang Medical Tourism Assessment Event sa Manila, Philippines.

Layunin nitong tulungan ang mga Pilipinong pasyenteng napagpasyahan nang isaalang-alang ang Tsina bilang opsyon sa kanilang gamutan.

Ang Phcancare ay tagapag-ugnay lamang ang pape nito. Ang lahat ng desisyong medikal ay gagawin ng mga doktor sa mga ospital sa Tsina, at ng mga pasyente at kanilang mga pamilya. Ang trabaho ng Phcancare ay suriin ang kahandaan at kaangkupan ng pasyente sa pagpunta sa Tsina, at iugnay siya sa tamang ospital at sa mga kailangang asikasuhin bago, habang, at pagkatapos ng biyahe.

Mga Serbisyon Iniaalok
Records Review at Hospital Matching – sinusuri ang mga dokumento at medical records ng pasyente upang maiugnay siya sa pasilidad na akma sa kanyang kondisyon.

Visa at Travel Coordination – inaasikaso ang mga papeles at biyahe mula Pilipinas patungong Tsina.

Interpretation at On-Ground Support – may tagasalin at gabay upang hindi maging hadlang ang wika.

Follow-up Care – patuloy ang suporta ng koponan kahit nakauwi na ang pasyente.

Mga Ospital at Larangang Sakop

Ang network ng Phcancare ay binubuo ng mga lisensyadong Tier-3 Grade A hospitals sa Tsina, ang pinakamataas na antas ng klasipikasyon ng ospital sa bansa. Kabilang sa mga larangang sakop ang: Oncology at systemic therapy, Urology, Endocrinology, Gynecology, Hepatobiliary at Gastroenterology, at Traditional Chinese Medicine.



Pamumuno at Suporta

Pinamamahalaan ang Phcancare ng isang Expert China Coordinator Director kasama ang mga dedikadong Pilipinong coordinator. Bawat pasyente ay may case manager na available 24/7, mula sa paunang pagsusuri ng eligibility hanggang sa panahon ng paggaling. Paano Magpareserba?

Limitado ang mga upuan para sa pribadong pagtitipon na ito, kaya hinihikayat ang mga interesado na magpareserba nang maaga.

Tumawag o mag-text: +63 964 150 6932

Paalala: Ang Phcancare ay nagsisilbing tulay lamang sa pagitan ng pasyente at mga ospital sa Tsina.

SUSPECT IN ELDERLY COUPLE'S MURDER FALLS AFTER 72-HOUR COTABATO POLICE OP

COTABATO CITY – A nonstop police operation in Banisilan, Cotabato, led to the arrest of the primary suspect in the murder of a retired teacher couple less than 72 hours after the crime, officials said Wednesday.

In a report, Colonel Ramel Hojilla, the provincial police director of Cotabato, said the primary suspect in the murder of seniors Edwin, 81, and Elsa Galeno, 82, of Barangay Poblacion 2, Banisilan, was arrested at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday

in Sitio Kib-al, Barangay Guiling, Alamada town.

He identified the suspect only as alias "Meroy," 53, the victims' distant relative. Maj. Arvin John Basilio Cambang, chief of Banisilan Municipal Police Station, led the arrest with the help of the suspect's relatives.

In an interview with reporters, Cambang said Meroy reportedly got mad after the couple denied his loan request. The suspect is allegedly hooked on illegal gambling.

The couple, who own a rubber plantation, were found by neighbors in a pool of blood in their home at about 5 a.m. on Oct. 4, about two hours after they were stabbed to death by the assailant.

"Our investigation showed that the suspect's motive was due to a personal grudge when the victims refused to lend him money he supposed to borrow," Cambang said, adding that the suspect did not resist arrest.

Brig. Gen. Alan

Manibog, director of the Police Regional Office-Soccsksargen (PRO-12), commended the Banisilan municipal police office and the Cotabato provincial police office for successfully arresting the suspect.

"Your relentless hot pursuit, effective strategy, and teamwork led to swift justice and gave the bereaved families a measure of closure. Excellent work," Manibog said in a statement. (PNA) **BY EDWIN FERNANDEZ**

CALE88 BANK TRAIL SHOWS P40-M FLOW, DOCUMENT GAP

MANILA – Security Bank records showed more than PHP40 million moving through a Cale88 Foods Corporation peso account in 2024, as senator-judges raised an unresolved question over transactions that were reportedly unsupported by documents normally required by the bank. Security Bank Branch Banking Group Head Leslie Cham told the Senate impeachment court Wednesday that the account recorded PHP40,138,766.28 in inflows and PHP40,001,101.79 in outflows during the year. He clarified that the PHP332,530.95 earlier cited before the court was only the account's year-end balance, and did not represent the total amount that had moved through it. Security Bank records also showed PHP6,265,915.66 in inflows in 2025. The financial trail drew further scrutiny after Senate President Sherwin Gatchalian cited a suspicious transaction report (STR) stating that a client failed to provide supporting documents and remained unresponsive to requests for clarification. "However, the client failed to provide supporting documents and remained unresponsive to the request for clarification, which resulted in the bank being unable to validate the source and purpose of the transaction," Gatchalian read from the record. He also cited another STR describing fresh funds as not commensurate with the customer's declared financial profile. Cham declined to confirm or discuss the specific Cale88 STRs, saying the reports were covered by confidentiality restrictions and were outside the scope of his subpoena. "I cannot confirm," he said when asked whether Security Bank had filed STRs involving Cale88.

Senator-judge Bam Aquino later pressed Cham on how Security Bank normally handles large remittances whose source or purpose is not backed by documentation. Cham said the bank generally requires contracts, sales invoices, deeds of sale or similar records to establish the legitimacy of the transaction. "We don't transact without any documents," he said. Asked whether Security Bank would accept a remittance without the required proof, Cham replied: "Yes, we don't accept." He said such funds are normally returned. "Usually we actually return the money," Cham said. Aquino then pointed to the apparent gap between that policy and the transactions being examined. "So ang sinasabi ninyo, hindi puwedeng makapasok iyong pera kung walang dokumento... Paano nangyari iyon (So what you are saying is the money cannot come in without documents... How did that happen?)" Aquino asked. Cham said he could not determine whether the questioned funds were returned, retained or otherwise handled by the bank. "I don't want to speculate on what had happened because I'm not also clear where the money is returned or retained," he said. The testimony also established that Cale88 maintained two peso checking accounts with Security Bank, opened in August 2024 and October 2025. Both accounts were closed in July 2026. "Yes, it appears that Cale88 has two checking accounts but was closed already as of this point in time," Cham said. (PNA)

BY WILNARD BACELONIA

SECURITY BANK: GENCORP MAINTAINS 8 ACTIVE PESO ACCOUNTS

MANILA – GenCorp Industries, Inc. maintains eight active peso accounts with Security Bank, with the company adding four more from 2023 to 2025, the Senate impeachment court was told Wednesday. Security Bank Branch Banking Group Head Leslie Cham disclosed the account footprint after Senator-Judge Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan asked whether the company maintains peso accounts with the bank. "Eight accounts," Cham said, noting that all remain active. GenCorp is among the business interests declared by Vice President Sara Duterte in her 2024 and 2025 Statements of Assets, Liabilities and Net Worth (SALNs), although corporate records presented earlier in the trial did not list her as an incorporator, director, or stockholder. "Yes, sir. It's all active," Cham told the court when Pangilinan asked whether the accounts remained open. The records presented by Cham showed GenCorp's first two accounts were opened in October and November 2020, followed by two more in March 2021. Another account was opened in August 2023,

while three more were added in January, August, and November 2025.

Pangilinan then asked Cham to place on record the year-end balances of the accounts covering 2022 to 2025.

For one account, the balance stood at about PHP7.88 million at the end of 2022, rose to PHP10.67 million in 2023, declined to PHP9.04 million in 2024, and settled at about PHP3.28 million in 2025.

Another account carried balances of about PHP2.28 million in 2022, PHP3.12 million in 2023, and PHP4.55 million in 2024.

A separate account recorded about PHP3.18 million in 2023, PHP5.05 million in 2024, and PHP4.14 million in 2025.

Cham also identified another account with about PHP14.59 million at the end of 2022, increasing to PHP15.66 million in 2023 before falling to PHP11.3 million in 2024.

The remaining accounts carried smaller year-end balances, including one with about PHP1.5 million in 2025, another with PHP3.19 million, one with about PHP18,656, and another with zero balance. (PNA)

BY WILNARD BACELONIA

BIR LOGS 100% RESOLUTION RATE FOR TAXPAYER CONCERNS IN H1 2026

MANILA – The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) achieved a 100 percent resolution and compliance rate in addressing taxpayer concerns in the first half of the year.

In a statement on Wednesday, BIR said these concerns were

referred through the Presidential 8888 Citizens' Complaint Center and the Civil Service Commission's (CSC) Contact Center ng Bayan (CCB).

The agency received a total of 778 referrals from January to June 2026, all of which were acted

upon and closed within the prescribed 72-hour period, with no instances of delayed action.

For referrals from the CSC's CCB, the BIR also posted a 100 percent resolution and compliance rate, resolving all 59 cases within the prescribed 72-hour period.

It also resolved all 17 complaints referred through the CCB within the required timeframe.

"I thank and congratulate our frontline personnel and everyone who worked

DENR, DOLE, DOE ADOPT PLAN TO PROTECT WORKERS IN PH SHIFT TO GREEN ECONOMY

MANILA – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Department of Energy (DOE) have adopted a framework to protect workers and communities as the Philippines shifts to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy.

In a news release Wednesday, Environment Secretary Juan Miguel Cuna said the DENR signed Joint Administrative Order (JAO) 2026-01 on Sept. 15 with Labor Secretary Francis Tolentino and Energy Secretary Sharon Garin, adopting the Philippine Just Transition Framework (PJTF).

"As we move toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient future, this framework is both a guide and a call to leadership," Cuna said.

"It challenges every sector to pursue development pathways that uphold environmental stewardship, advance social equity, create decent and sustainable livelihoods, and ensure that no Filipino is left behind."

The framework will guide the three agencies in aligning their policies, programs, and investments while addressing the transition's impact on workers, enterprises, industries, and

communities.

He said the framework calls on all sectors to pursue development that protects the environment, promotes social equity, and provides decent and sustainable livelihoods.

Under the framework, the DENR will integrate just-transition principles into environmental and natural resource management, including environmental and social risk assessments.

The DOLE will focus on workforce planning, skills development, green jobs, occupational safety and health, labor standards, employment facilitation, and social protection.

Meanwhile, the DOE will incorporate just-transition considerations into energy policies, programs, and investments and assess their effects on workers, enterprises, and communities.

The JAO establishes a Just Transition Steering Committee and a Technical Working Group (TWG), with the DENR serving as interim secretariat for both. The TWG will prepare a National Just Transition Implementation Plan within 30 months from the JAO's effectivity, covering priority sectors, financing, stakeholder participation, and monitoring.

Workers, employers, labor unions, civil society, Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, local communities, and the private sector will also take part through a Multipartite Advisory Group.

The completed framework has been submitted to the Climate Change Commission (CCC) for a resolution on its adoption. (PNA) **BY MARITA MOAJE**

together to make sure these concerns were acted upon promptly and properly. Let us sustain this and continue making sure that concerns brought to our attention receive timely and appropriate action," BIR Commissioner Charlito Mendoza said. (PNA) **BY ANNA LEAH GONZALES**

"Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!"

Amos 5:24



LADY FALCONS, TIGRESSES BEGIN V-LEAGUE TITLE SERIES

MANILA — Adamson University and the University of Santo Tomas (UST) begin their best-of-three title series in the V-League Collegiate Challenge at the Filoil EcoOil Centre in San Juan on Wednesday.

The Lady Falcons played minus Alas standout Shaina Nitura when they beat the Growling Tigresses, 25-23, 25-17, 25-17, on Sept. 20.

Nitura and Nigerian reinforcement Frances Mordi are expecting a strong challenge from UST's formidable duo Regina Jurado and Angge Poyos in the 4 p.m. opener. Adamson is aiming to defend the crown while UST is hoping to reclaim the title it won two years ago.

For Adamson coach JP Yude, it is all about sticking to the basics, especially during crunch time.

"Number one thing, yung application always sa aming ginagawa, paano namin pag-aralan (The number one priority [in our practice] is the actual application), study the opponent on how and why to apply during the game. Listen and apply. Always listen sa mga (to) instructions; obedience during the application during the game. Always respond during pressure moments and bad situations," Yude said.

Also expected to step up for UST are Marga Altea

and Cassie Carballo.

"Very crucial sa amin talaga ang preparation. So, hopefully, meron kaming mas magagawa na marami. Siguro sa two days o three days na natitira before Game 1, mas mai-improve pa ang ginagawa namin sa semifinals (Preparation is very crucial for us. Hopefully, we can accomplish a lot more, perhaps in the two or three days remaining before Game 1 to further improve on what we've been doing in the semifinals)," UST coach Shaq Delos Santos said.

Meanwhile, University of the East and Arellano University will clash in the bronze medal match at 1 p.m.

In the men's division, defending champion Far

Eastern University (FEU) and National University (NU) will also open their best-of-three title duel at 6:30 p.m.

Dryx Saavedra will spearhead the Tamaraws, who will enter the title round unbeaten in nine matches.

Buds Buddin, Peng Taguibolos, and Leo Ordiales are expected to play for the Bulldogs after their Asian Games campaign.

By reaching the finals, FEU and NU have already secured spots in the Spikers' Turf Conference. NCAA champion College of Saint Benilde and Letran will meet in the men's battle for third place at 10 a.m. (PNA)

BY JEAN MALANUM



TITLE SERIES. Shaina Nitura of Adamson University (right) scores against Havanna Reign Macalintal of the University of the East in the semifinals of the V-League Collegiate Challenge at the FilOil EcoOil Centre in San Juan on Oct. 3, 2026. Nitura will lead the Lady Falcons as they start the title series against the UST Growling Tigresses on Wednesday (Oct. 7). (V-League photo)

PH GEARS UP TO HOST U18 MEN'S SOFTBALL ASIA CUP

MANILA — The Philippines is preparing to host the Under-18 Men's Softball Asia Cup in Clark, Pampanga on Dec. 1-7, in an event that will serve as a qualifier for the 2027 WBSC World Cup.

The tournament highlights years of work by the Amateur Softball Association of the

Philippines (Asa-Phil) to strengthen the grassroots programs, develop athletes, and provide young Filipinos with more opportunities to compete at the international level.

"For many years, our athletes traveled abroad to compete against the best in the region. This December, we will welcome Asia's

rising softball stars to the Philippines. That is a significant moment for Philippine softball. It gives our athletes the chance to compete on home soil, inspires the next generation, and allows us to showcase the Philippines as a destination capable of hosting international

sporting events," Asa-Phil president Jean Henri Lhuillier said during a press conference at the PJJ Corporate Center in Makati City on Thursday.

Beyond the competition, the tournament is expected to bring together athletes, coaches, officials, families, and supporters from

MANILA — PAREF Southridge has steadily widened its footprint in the UAAP, joining seven events in Season 89.

The Admirals, who debuted in UAAP Season 87 football, will also compete in baseball, fencing, football, swimming, tennis, chess and street dance.

In Season 88, the Admirals won the high school baseball championship, finished first runner-up in fencing, reached the Final Four in football, secured a second runner-up finish in a swimming event, and established their presence in tennis.

What was once a pipe dream for Southridge — to showcase its athletic excellence on a bigger platform — has now become a bona fide reality. Competing in the UAAP is a priceless privilege that the Muntinlupa-based school cherishes, as it not only gives its student-athletes the opportunity to test themselves against competitors from other schools, but also contributes to their character development.

"Fans and competitors can expect our student-athletes to play like true Southridge Gentlemen — giving their absolute best effort and challenging the competition in every single game, match, and event," Southridge sports director Darrel Arevalo said in a news release on Thursday.

"Our main priority remains character formation, ensuring our boys are exemplary in character and virtue while competing with genuine respect for the game, the officials, and their opponents. Through this balance of high-level competition and strong values, we intend to prove that Southridge firmly belongs in what is arguably the best youth sports league in the country," the former Admiral added.

Arevalo, who graduated with a degree in Physical Education from the UP College of Human Kinetics (CHK) in 2017, paid homage to the different stakeholders

who have played a role in strengthening Southridge's relationship with the UAAP. The current Master of Science in Human Movement Science student thanked Southridge's students, parents, and alumni, who have devoted their time, effort, and resources to making the endeavor work.

He also expressed gratitude to several UAAP officials, including Executive Director Rebo Saguisag, Mark Molina, Em Fernandez, and the rest of the Board of Managing Directors, as well as football Commissioner Rely San Agustin, for their trust, guidance and vital roles in opening the UAAP door for the Admirals.

"The UAAP brings a shared sense of purpose that has genuinely tightened the bond within the PAREF Southridge community. From preparation in daily training to game days, everyone across the school supports one another, which was most evident during our baseball championship run last year," Arevalo said.

"Grade school and high school baseball players packed Rizal Memorial Stadium, while back on campus, our students, faculty, and staff gathered together for an institutional watch party. This overwhelming community backing and momentum inspired us to move forward with the Southridge Sports

Complex, a facility that will complement our growing participation in the UAAP and support our student-athletes for years to come," he added.

Even before Southridge formally joined the UAAP as a guest school and expanded its presence to seven high school events, it had already established strong representation in the league by producing several alumni who went on to compete for UAAP member universities across different sports.

As it continues to embrace the privilege of competing in the UAAP and remains grateful to the league, the school's ambitions have moved well beyond mere representation and athletic success.

Southridge now hopes to one day use its campus to host UAAP competitions while continuing to uphold and sustain its opportunity to compete in the league.

"Looking forward, we hope to see PAREF Southridge grow alongside the UAAP, with the dream of one day hosting future league events at our campus. This aspiration will be anchored by the upcoming Southridge Sports Complex, a major undertaking driven and headed by Board Member Jaime Daez, whose leadership as the main proponent has made this facility possible," Arevalo said. (PNA)

BY JEAN MALANUM



HISTORIC WIN. PAREF Southridge became the first guest team to secure the UAAP Season 88 high school baseball title. The Admirals defeated the De La Salle Zobel Junior Green Batters, 11-1 in Game 2 of the Finals on Feb. 23, 2026. (UAAP photo)